

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 TRSE-00 /076 W

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P 141105Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

COMIPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2908

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: UPDATE MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 1

FOLLOWING TEL FROM DA NANG SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO
USDAO SAIGON 14 MARCH BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE: DA NANG 229

ON MARCH 13, I CORPS HQS TOC REPORTED THAT:

1. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

ON MARCH 12, THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING DECREASED AND THE SITUATION
APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZED.

IN QUANG TRI (P), THE ONLY MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED WAS TWO
LIGHT MORTAR ABF'S ON RF UNITS AND ONE SMALL CONTACT WITH GVN
MARIENS.

IN THUA THIEN (P), MOST OF THE MILITARY ACTIVITY INVOLVED
SEARCH AND CLEARING OPERATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY GVN UNITS.
IN PHONG DIEN (D), 3D 4TH, AND 5TH MARINE BNS WERE SUBJECTED TO
LIGHT ABF'S AND HAD LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS.

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THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN THUA THIEN (P) OCCURRED BETWEEN

0800 AND 1800 HOURS, MARCH 12TH, AS THE 17TH ARMORED CAVALRY SQUADRON, 2D ASSAULT TROOP OF THE 20TH TANK SQUADRON, 2D CO OF THE 111TH RF BN, AND 1ST CO OF THE 112TH RF BN, CONDUCTED SWEEP OPERATIONS AND HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS WITH NVA/VC AT YD640320 AND YD611331, 4.5 TO 7KM SW OF QUANG DIEN (D), AND AT YD598360, 8.5KM NW OF QUANG DIEN (D). RESULTS: GVN 6 KIA AND 12 WIA; NVA/VC 102 KIA INCLUDING ONE 1ST LT, 8 CAPTURED INCLUDING TWO DOCTORS, 2 61MM MORTARS, 1 RPD LMG, 26 SMALL ARMS, 2 CHICOM RADIOS, 1 SET OF CALL SIGNS, A QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION, AND SOME DOCUMENTS CAPTURED.

IN SOUTHERN THUA THIEN (P), ARVN RANGER, AIRBORNE, AND 1ST DIVISION TROOPS CONTINUED TO HAVE CONTACT WITH NVA/VC TO THE SOUTH AND WEST OF BONG MOUNTAIN. IN PHU LOC (D), THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 1ST REGIMENT, ELEMENTS OF THE 51ST AND 54TH REGIMENTS, AND THE 11TH AIRBORNE BN WERE SUBJECTED TO LIGHT SROLLING AND A FEW GROUND ATTACKS. ON THE HAI VAN PASS, AT 0130 HOURS, MARCH 13TH, THE NVA/VC BLEW UP A GUARDED CULVERT ON HWY 1 AT AT929922; THE 5 METER LONG CULVERT WAS 50 PERCENT DAMAGED AND TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED. REPAIR WAS COMPLETED AS OF 0930 HOURS. AIRBORNE, RF, AND ENGINEER UNITS ON THE HAI VAN MOUNTAIN HAVE RECEIVED LIGHT SHELLING, HARASSING, AND PROBING ACTIONS.

2. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM (P) THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT FIGHTING. IN DIEN BAN (D), SUBSECTOR AND PF UNITS HAD TWO LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS WITH NVA/VC. IN DAI LOC (D) IN THE VICINITY OF HILL 52, SEVERAL AIRBORNE UNITS SUFFERED FIVE LIGHT ABF'S. IN DUY XUYEN (D), RF BATTALIONS WERE SUBJECTED TO TWO LIGHT ABF'S. IN QUE SON (D), ONE PF UNIT ACTIVATED A MINE; ONE RF UNIT HAD A LIGHT GROUND CONTACT; AND ONE SUB-SUBSECTOR WAS ATTACKED. DURING THE MARCH 12 NVA/VC ATTACK ON THE PHU HIEP SUB-SUBSECTOR AT BT133442, 1KM SOUTH OF TAY SON BASE. 5 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 8 WOUNDED BY STRAY BULLETS; 2 PF MEMBERS WERE ALSO WOUNDED. IN ALL OF THE ABOVE QUANG NAM ACTIONS. BOTH GVN AND KNOWN NVA/VC CASUALTIES WERE FEW.

IN QUANG TIN (P), FIGHTING CONTINUED IN TIEN PHUOC AND TAM KY DISTRICTS. GROUND ATTACKS AND SHELLINGS HAVE CONTINUED AGAINST HILL 159, BT280150, WHICH IS PRESENTLY REPORTEDLY OCCUPIED BY ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH ARVN REGIMENT. TO THE NORTH, IN THE VICINITY OF PHUOC TIEN (V), TIEN PHUOC (D), OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE 5TH REGIMENT AND SOME SUPPORTING RF COMPANIES HAVE REMAINED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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TACT WITH NVA/VC UNITS; FIGHTING IS CONTINUING ALTHOUGH POSITIONS APPEAR TO HAVE STABILIZED SOMEWHAT. THE 37TH AND 39TH RANGER BATTALIONS HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS ON AND IN THE VICINITY OF DUONG CON MOUNTAIN AT BT182205, WEST OF TAM KY CITY.

IN QUANG NGAI (P), MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN AT A LOW LEVEL WITH ONLY NINE SCATTERED INCIDENTS REPORTED. THE MOST UNUSUAL INCIDENT WAS A GRENADE ATTACK ON BINH YEN SUB-SUBSECTOR, ON NORMALLY PLACID LY SON ISLAND (CU LAO RE), A PART OF BINH

SON DISTRICT; ONE OFFICER WAS KILLED AND SIX OTHER PERSONS WERE
WOUNDED IN THIS ATTACK. (COMMENT: CONGEN'S ACTING PROVINCE
OFFICER DIRECTOR, QUANG NGAI, REPORTS THAT INITIAL LOCAL OPINION
IS THAT LY SON INCIDENT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN TERRORIST RELATED.
INCIDENT IS BEING INVESTIGATED. END COMMENT) TULL
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